# Environmental Checklist Form (Initial Study)

County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning



Project title: Agua Dulce Community Standards District / Project No. R2010-01627-(1-5) / Case No. RADV 201000005.

Project location: Agua Dulce

APN: <u>Various</u> Thomas Guide: <u>Pages 4372-4374, 4462-4464</u> USGS Quad: <u>Agua Dulce, Sleepy</u> Valley, Mint Canyon

Gross Area: 44 square miles

**Description of project:** The proposed project consists of a significant expansion and revision of standards contained within the Agua Dulce Community Standards District (CSD) in the form of amendments to Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code (Code). These revisions encompass a more specific and comprehensive series of standards intended to maintain a dispersed, low density pattern for future development in Agua Dulce in order to preserve the secluded rural nature of the community. The proposed standards are designed to protect the equestrian, agricultural, historical, cultural, archaeological, and geological characteristics of the community by preserving sensitive natural features such as the Vasquez Rocks Natural Area, by maintaining and enhancing the pedestrian and equestrian trail system, and by minimizing the placement of urban infrastructure, such as street lights and concrete sidewalks, that would alter the character of the community. Specifically, the CSD requires routes on the highway plan to use alternate rural highway standards where possible and prohibits new curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. The CSD also requires street and other outdoor lighting to be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44 of the Code which would, in turn, permit reasonable uses of outdoor lighting to ensure nighttime safety and security and promote dark skies for the enjoyment and health of humans and wildlife. The CSD also places restrictions on signage in the Agua Dulce community including the number of signs permitted per parcel, the number of faces, total height, area, and light allowed per sign. The CSD requires that land division projects creating more than four lots or parcels of land contain public dedicated trail easements designed to connect to existing or planned trails and to provide connectivity to recreational uses. Density controlled development is permitted under the CSD, including development in hillside management areas and significant ecological areas, so long as each lot or parcel contains a minimum acreage, yardage, width, and depth. The CSD prohibits the creation of more than four lots per parcel of land in hillside management areas except where a written analysis demonstrates that grading will not be conducted uniformly across the entirety of the project and will be limited to the pads of the individual structures. The CSD also contains provisions for the protection of significant ridgelines including mandating that structures be located a minimum of 50 vertical and horizontal feet from any significant ridgelines. Moreover, the CSD contains zone specific development standards for residential and agricultural zones that include provisions for lot design, required yardage, standards for home based occupations, number of dogs allowed per parcel, and number of cargo shipping containers allowed. Zone specific development standards for commercial zones as designated in the CSD include provisions for structure design, utilities and equipment, and pedestrian and equestrian accommodation requirements. The CSD also outlines a procedure for the modification of development standards.

General plan designation: N/A (Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan)

Community/Area wide Plan designation: Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, various designations (N1-Non Urban 1, N2-Non Urban 2, C-Commercial, M-Industry, P-Public Service Facilities, O-Open Space, HM-Hillside Management, S-Significant Ecological Areas, W-Floodway/Floodplain, AP-Airport, NF-National Forest

**Zoning:** A-1-1, A-1-10, A-1-20000, A-2-1, A-2-2, A-2-7, R-3, R-R, R-R-1, C-3, W, P-R, M-1-DP

Surrounding land uses and setting: Agua Dulce is a rural community located in the eastern Santa Clarita Valley. It contains numerous drainage courses including Agua Dulce Canyon and Tick Canyon. Various natural biological resources exist in the community. Elevation ranges from 2,400 feet to 3,400 feet.

Major projects in the area:  Project / Case No.  N/A	Description and Status	
Reviewing Agencies:  Responsible Agencies  None Regional Water Quality Control Board:  Los Angeles Region  Lahontan Region  Coastal Commission  Army Corps of Engineers	Special Reviewing Agencies  ☐ None ☐ Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy ☐ National Parks ☐ National Forest ☐ Edwards Air Force Base ☐ Resource Conservation District of Santa Monica Mountains Area ☐ Any neighboring cities (City of Santa Clarita)	Regional Significance  None SCAG Criteria Air Quality Water Resources Santa Monica Mtns. Area
Trustee Agencies  None State Dept. of Fish and Game State Dept. of Parks and Recreation State Lands Commission University of California (Natural Land and Water Reserves System)	County Reviewing Agencies  DPW:  - Land Development Division (Grading & Drainage)  - Geotechnical & Materials Engineering Division  - Traffic and Lighting Division  - Environmental Programs Division	<ul> <li>➢ Fire Department</li> <li>- Forestry, Environmental Division</li> <li>-Planning Division</li> <li>➢ Public Health</li> <li>➢ Sheriff Department</li> <li>➢ Parks and Recreation</li> </ul>
Public agency approvals which is Public Agency	may be required: Approval Required	

# Lead agency name and address:

Project sponsor's name and address:

County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning 320 West Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Contact person and phone number: Brianna Menke, (213) 974-6476

# **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

		No	Imp	act		
IMPACT ANALYSIS			Les	s tha	n Sign	ificant Impact
SUMMARY MATRIX				Les		Significant Impact w/ Project Mitigation
					Poter	ntially Significant Impact
Environmental Factor	Pg.					Potential Concern
1. Aesthetics			$\boxtimes$			
2. Agriculture/Forest			$\boxtimes$			
3. Air Quality			$\boxtimes$			
4. Biological Resources			$\boxtimes$			
5. Cultural Resources			$\boxtimes$			
6. Energy			$\boxtimes$			
7. Geology/Soils			$\boxtimes$			
8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions			$\boxtimes$			
9. Hazards/Hazardous Materials			$\boxtimes$			
10. Hydrology/Water Quality			$\boxtimes$			
11. Land Use/Planning			$\boxtimes$			
12. Mineral Resources			$\boxtimes$			
13. Noise			$\boxtimes$			
14. Population/Housing			$\boxtimes$			
15. Public Services			$\boxtimes$			
16. Recreation			$\boxtimes$			
17. Transportation/Traffic			$\boxtimes$			
18. Utilities/Services			$\boxtimes$			
19. Mandatory Findings			$\boxtimes$			
of Significance						

	ERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Depart ne basis of this initial evaluation:	ment.)
	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have <u>NEGATIVE DECLARATION</u> will be prepared.	a significant effect on the environment, and a
	I find that although the proposed project could have will not be a significant effect in this case because revagreed to by the project proponent. <u>A MITIGATED</u> prepared.	sions in the project have been made by or
	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significa ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required	
	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potenti significant unless mitigated" impact on the environme adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant t addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlie ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required remain to be addressed.	ent, but at least one effect 1) has been o applicable legal standards, and 2) has been r analysis as described on attached sheets. An
	I find that although the proposed project could have a because all potentially significant effects (a) have been NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicab mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed	analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or le standards, and (b) have been avoided or E DECLARATION, including revisions or
Signat	ture	Date
Signat	ture	Date

#### EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources the Lead Department cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the Lead Department has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level. (Mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced.)
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA processes, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. (State CEQA Guidelines § 15063(c)(3)(D).) In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of, and adequately analyzed in, an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 7) The explanation of each issue should identify: the significance threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question, and; mitigation measures identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance. Sources of thresholds include the County General Plan, other County planning documents, and County ordinances. Some thresholds are unique to geographical locations.
- 8) Climate Change Impacts: When determining whether a project's impacts are significant, the analysis should consider, when relevant, the effects of future climate change on: 1) worsening hazardous conditions that pose risks to the project's inhabitants and structures (e.g., floods and wildfires), and 2) worsening the project's impacts on the environment (e.g., impacts on special status species and public health).

## 1. AESTHETICS

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XV/ 11.1	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:  a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, including County-designated scenic resources areas (scenic highways as shown on the Scenic Highway Element, scenic corridors, scenic hillsides, and scenic ridgelines)?				
b) Be visible from or obstruct views from a regional riding or hiking trail?				
c) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings, or undeveloped or undisturbed areas?				
d) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings because of height, bulk, pattern, scale, character, or other features?				
e) Create a new source of substantial shadows, light, or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Scenic views of the Angeles Forest are visible from the community of Agua Dulce. The proposed CSD zoning ordinance would not create substantial adverse effects on a scenic vista because the CSD does not propose any physical development, but rather provides for a more comprehensive and specific standards to guide future development in the community. These proposed standards would limit the allowable height of structures, cargo shipping containers, and signage as well as require street and other outdoor lighting to be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44 of the Code which promotes dark skies, and regulate development within designated distances of ridgelines and hillside management areas. Therefore, because the CSD will not increase the amount of development in Agua Dulce, but rather guide future development in a manner that preserves the secluded rural nature of the community, the CSD will have a less than significant impact on a scenic vista, including County-designated scenic resource areas (scenic highways as shown on the Scenic Highway Element, scenic corridors, scenic hillsides, and scenic ridgelines). Furthermore, any future development that may be visible or obstruct views from a regional riding or hiking trail would not be significantly more impactful due to the requirements of the CSD. Additionally, the CSD requires that land division projects creating more than four lots or parcels of land contain public dedicated trail easements designed to connect to existing or planned trails and to provide connectivity to recreational uses. Because the proposed standards are designed to protect the equestrian, agricultural, historical, cultural, archaeological, and geological characteristics of the community by preserving sensitive natural features, the CSD will not substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings, or undeveloped or undisturbed areas.

Because the CSD is not projected to significantly increase the level of future development, the CSD will have a less

than significant impact on the aesthetics of these areas of Agua Dulce. Furthermore, the CSD is intended to maintain a dispersed, low density development pattern to preserve the secluded rural nature of the community, which includes the protection of the equestrian, agricultural, and geological characteristics of the community. As such, the CSD contains provisions to more comprehensively regulate future development. For the aforementioned reasons, the CSD will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings because of height, bulk, pattern, scale, character, or other features and impacts would be less than significant.

Although the CSD does not completely prohibit the installation of new streetlights, require street and other outdoor lighting to be in conformance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44 of the Code which promotes dark skies for the enjoyment and health of humans and wildlife. For the aforementioned reasons, the CSD will have a less than significant impact on the creation of a new source of substantial shadows, light, or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

## 2. AGRICULTURE / FOREST

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Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, with a designated Agricultural Opportunity Area, or with a Williamson Act contract?				
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code § 12220 (g)) or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Public Resources Code § 4526)?				
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce, nor will it increase the level of future development, the CSD will not have a significant negative impact on agriculture or forests in Agua Dulce.

A small area of Farmland of Statewide Importance is located in the northern portion of Agua Dulce (California Department of Conservation 2006 Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Map). However, because the CSD will not directly or indirectly expand or increase what is built in Agua Dulce, impacts to agricultural resources in relation to the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) to non-agricultural use would be less than significant. Moreover, because the CSD does not contain any provisions for rezoning and the County of Los Angeles does not participate in the Williamson Act program, the CSD will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, with a designated Agricultural Opportunity Area, or with a Williamson Act Contract. For the aforementioned reasons, the CSD also will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code § 12220(g)) or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Public Resources Code § 4526).

Portions of Agua Dulce are located within the Angeles National Forest. As such, future development pursuant to the CSD could result in the loss or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. However, because the CSD will not directly or indirectly expand or increase what is built in Agua Dulce, but rather provides more comprehensive and

specific standards to guide future development in the community, it will not have a significant negative impact resulting in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Similarly, based on the previous discussion, the CSD will not involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

### 3. AIR QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:	puev	incorporated	<i>p</i>	ıp.u.v
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans of the South Coast AQMD (SCAQMD) or the Antelope Valley AQMD?				
b) Violate any applicable federal or state air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation (i.e. exceed the State's criteria for regional significance which is generally (a) 500 dwelling units for residential uses or (b) 40 gross acres, 650,000 square feet of floor area or 1,000 employees for nonresidential uses)?				
c) Exceed a South Coast AQMD or Antelope Valley AQMD CEQA significance threshold?				
d) Otherwise result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?				
e) Expose sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, hospitals, parks) to substantial pollutant concentrations due to location near a freeway or heavy industrial use?				
f) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			$\boxtimes$	

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. The proposed CSD zoning ordinance would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans of the SCAQMD because the CSD does not propose any physical development, but rather provides more comprehensive and specific standards to guide future development in the community. Because the provisions of the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce, impact on air quality would be less than significant. Furthermore, the purpose of the CSD is to promote and maintain dispersed, low density development which does not conflict or obstruct the implementation of applicable air quality plan of the SCAQMD. Moreover, for the aforementioned reasons, no provisions of the CSD would violate any applicable federal or state air quality standard or contribute substantially to any existing air quality violation.

Though the provisions of the CSD would not directly result in any physical changes in the environment, including the construction of any new freeways or heavy industrial structures, it is possible that new construction will occur. All new construction will be required to comply with applicable air quality standards and, as such, exposure of sensitive receptors (e.g. schools, hospitals, parks) to substantial pollutant concentrations due to location near a freeway or heavy industrial use will be less than significant.

The CSD is intended, in part, to protect the equestrian and agricultural characteristics of the Agua Dulce Community. Moreover, the CSD increases the allowable number of dogs per acre of land; stating that for a lot or parcel of land one net acre or greater in size, a maximum of five dogs shall be allowed. Agriculture, equestrian activities, and an increase in the canine population can be associated with objectionable odors, including fertilizer and animal waste. However, the provisions of the CSD would not directly result in an increase in agricultural or equestrian activities. Moreover, due to the fact that an increase in the allowable number of dogs is in direct proportion to an increase in land acreage, it is unlikely that an increase in dog ownership on a specific parcel would adversely affect odors on adjoining parcels. Therefore, the CSD would result in a less than significant impact in relation to objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

# **4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impac
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?				
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on sensitive natural communities (e.g., riparian habitat, coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, non-jurisdictional wetlands) identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations DFG or USFWS? These communities include Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) identified in the General Plan, SEA Buffer Areas, and Sensitive Environmental Resource Areas (SERAs) identified in the Coastal Zone Plan.				
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands (including marshes, vernal pools, and coastal wetlands) or waters of the United States, as defined by § 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				
e) Convert oak woodlands (as defined by the state, oak woodlands are oak stands with greater than 10% canopy cover with oaks at least 5" inch in diameter measured at 4.5 feet above mean natural grade) or otherwise contain oak or other unique native trees (junipers, Joshuas, etc.)?				
f) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, including Wildflower Reserve Areas (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.36) and the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance				

## (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.56, Part 16)?

g) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted state,		$\boxtimes$
regional, or local habitat conservation plan?		

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce nor will it increase the level of future development, the CSD will not have a significant negative impact on biological resources.

While the CSD proposes amendments to the Code and does not create any new physical changes in the environment, there are provisions that could indirectly create physical changes such as project requirements for roads, trails, and subdivision of lots and parcels. While the CSD may indirectly affect biological resources through these requirements in future development, all future development will be required to comply with all applicable habitat conservation plans. As such, it will not conflict with existing provisions that allow for modifications from these improvements where necessary to protect those resources as well as any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, nor does the CSD conflict with the provisions of an adopted state, regional, or local habitat conservation plan. All Federal, State, and County requirements protecting biological resources would remain in place and could not be altered or circumvented by the CSD. Therefore, the CSD would not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Similarly, the CSD would not have a substantial adverse effect on sensitive natural communities (e.g. riparian habitat, coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, non-jurisdictional wetlands) identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations, CDFG, or USFWS including Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) identified in the General Plan, SEA Buffer Areas, and sensitive Environmental Resource Areas (SERAs) identified in the Coastal Zone Plan. Moreover, based on the aforementioned reasons, the CSD would not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands (including marshes, vernal pools, and coastal wetlands) or waters of the United States, as defined by § 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Finally, the CSD is not in conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. including Wildflower Reserve Areas (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.36) and the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.56, Part 16).

The provisions of the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce nor will they increase the level of future development or institute any rezoning. Moreover, the CSD promotes low density development patterns, minimal pavement of natural surfaces, minimal street lighting, and minimum distances for construction near significant ridgelines and hillside areas. The larger areas between development, the preservation of natural surfaces, the regulation of artificial street lighting, and the preservation of significant ridgelines and hillside may actually aid in the preservation of wildlife corridors and nursery sites. As such, the CSD will not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

The Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance recognizes oak trees as a significant historical, aesthetic, and ecological resource. As part of new development, oak trees are intended to be preserved and maintained under the existing Code. Implementation of the CSD would not conflict with the provisions of the Oak Tree Ordinance as new development would be required to comply with the Oak Tree Ordinance. Therefore, impacts to oak trees and oak woodlands would be less than significant.

## 5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

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Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?				
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?				
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site of unique geologic feature, or contain rock formations indicating potential paleontological resources?				
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. The proposed standards are designed to protect the equestrian, agricultural, historical, cultural, archaeological, and geological characteristics of the community and, as such, compliance with all applicable laws in the treatment of these resources would still be required and thus, impacts to cultural resources will be less than significant.

The Los Angeles County General Plan, which governs development in Agua Dulce, contains policies that provide for the protection of cultural heritage resources, including historical, archaeological, paleontological and geological sites, and significant architectural structures as well as encourage public use of cultural heritage sites, promote public awareness of cultural resources, and encourage private owners to protect cultural heritage resources in Los Angeles County. As such, in addition to the proposed standards in the CSD that aim to protect cultural resources in the area, all new development will be subject to these existing policies.

Based on the previous discussion, the CSD will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15054.5 nor will it directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site of unique geologic feature, or contain rock formations indicating potential paleontological resources. Because the CSD is intended to protect cultural resources, and because all new development will be required to comply will all applicable policies regarding cultural resources, disruption of human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries, will be less than significant.

#### 6. ENERGY

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Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impac
a) Comply with Los Angeles County Green Building Standards?(L.A. County Code Title 22, Ch. 22.52, Part 20 and Title 21, § 21.24.440.)				
b) Involve the inefficient use of energy resources (see Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines)?				

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the provisions of the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly significantly expand what is built in Agua Dulce, nor will the CSD significantly increase the level of future development, the CSD will not involve the inefficient use of energy resources.

Any and all future development will still be required to comply with all applicable state and local laws and regulations that are designed to conserve energy, including the Los Angeles County Green Building Standards (L.A. County Code Title 22, Ch. 22.52, part 20 and Title 21, § 21.24.440). Moreover, all future development pursuant to the CSD will be required to comply with the CEQA environmental review process, including the provisions for energy conservation contained in Appendix F, such as incorporating a "...discussion of the potential energy impacts of proposed projects, with particular emphasis on avoiding or reducing inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy..." into all Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs). Based on the aforementioned reasons, the CSD would result in less than significant impact related to energy.

## 7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Be located in an active or potentially active fault zone, Seismic Hazards Zone, or Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, and expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault.				$\boxtimes$
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
iv) Landslides?				
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				
f) Conflict with the Hillside Management Area Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 22, § 22.56.215) or hillside design standards in the County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element?				

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce nor will it increase the level of future development, the CSD will not have a significant negative impact on geology and soils in the area.

The State of California is susceptible to potential seismic hazards due to the existence of numerous faults throughout the state. This presents overall risks for damages to new and existing buildings and infrastructure. The Soledad Fault, Mint Canyon Fault, and Tick Canyon Fault are located within the community of Agua Dulce (State of California Seismic Hazards Zone Map — Newhall Quad, Los Angeles County Safety Element — Fault Rupture Hazards and Seismicity Map). [Though the CSD does not create any physical changes to the environment, it indirectly affects future physical projects through development standards for new development. The structures most susceptible to seismic hazards are unreinforced masonry buildings and/or buildings constructed prior to the adoption of building codes. Any construction of new buildings in Agua Dulce that would be required to comply with the CSD would also be required to comply with the California Building Code; therefore the CSD would not directly or indirectly expose people or structures to any increased seismic risk.

Because all future improvement and new development projects must also comply with all relevant engineering and seismic standards, the CSD will neither directly or indirectly create any significant impacted related to geologic hazards. The CSD does not mandate new construction, but rather provides a comprehensive framework for development. As such, the CSD will not directly or indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce nor will is increase the level of future development beyond what would take place without the CSD. Although the CSD itself may not cause or mandate any projects to be located in an active or potentially active fault zone, Seismic Hazards Zone, or Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, future projects may nonetheless still be located in these areas. However, all future projects would still be required to comply with all applicable regulations including building codes, the preparation of any necessary geotechnical reports, and the procurement of any necessary permits to ensure integrity of the structures that would minimize the exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, or landslides.

Furthermore, the CSD will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of top soil. All new development would be subject to applicable regulations concerning soil and erosion control. As such, the impacts of any new projects being located on a geological unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse would be less than significant. Additionally, the impacts of new projects being located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property would also be less than significant.

All new development pursuant to the CSD must comply with any applicable regulations including those governing the installation of septic tanks and alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water. Moreover, the CSD is not in conflict with the Hillside Management Area Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 22, § 22.56.215) or hillside design standards in the County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element because any new development will be subject to both the Hillside Management Area Ordinance and the General Plan in addition to any new standards created in the CSD.

### 8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Less Than

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas (GhGs) emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment (i.e., on global climate change)? Normally, the significance of the impacts of a project's GhG emissions should be evaluated as a cumulative impact rather than a project-specific impact.				
b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases including regulations implementing AB 32 of 2006, General Plan policies and implementing actions for GhG emission reduction, and the Los Angeles Regional Climate Action Plan?				

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly significantly expand what is built in Agua Dulce nor will it increase the level of future development, the CSD will not increase GhG emissions that may have a significant impact on the environment. Moreover, the CSD does not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases including regulations implementing AB 32 of 2006, General Plan policies and implementing actions for GhG emission reduction, and the Los Angeles Regional Climate Action Plan.

# 9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impaci
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, storage, production, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or use of pressurized tanks on-site?				
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials or waste into the environment?				
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 500 feet of sensitive land uses (e.g., homes, schools, hospitals)?				
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
g) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving fires, because the project is located:				
i) in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (Zone 4)?			$\boxtimes$	

ii) in a high fire hazard area with inadequate access?		
iii) in an area with inadequate water and pressure to meet fire flow hazards?		
iv) in proximity to land uses that have the potential for dangerous fire hazard (such as refineries, flammables, and explosives manufacturing)?		

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce, nor will it increase the level of future development, the CSD will not significantly increase hazards or hazardous materials in Agua Dulce.

Because the CSD does not mandate development, and as such will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce or increase the level of future development, the CSD will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, storage, production, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or use of pressurized tanks on-site. Moreover, all future development will be required to comply with all applicable laws and regulations pertaining to the transport, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste and, as such, the CSD will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials or waste into the environment nor will it emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 500 feet of sensitive land uses (e.g. homes, schools, hospitals). Because there are no hazardous materials sites located in the community of Agua Dulce, as referenced in the Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor database, the CSD will also not be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, it would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. All future development pursuant to the CSD will be required to adhere to applicable policies and regulations concerning safety in the vicinity of an airport and/or airstrip. As such, for a project located within an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, the CSD would have a less than significant impact on the safety of people residing or working in the project area. Moreover, based on the aforementioned reasons, for a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, the CSD would have a less than significant impact on the safety of people residing or working in the project area. Because the CSD does not mandate or propose any new development and all future development would have to meet all current requirements in addition to those proposed by the CSD, the CSD would not impair the implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Although the community of Agua Dulce is located in a Very High Fire Severity Zone (Zone 4), the CSD itself would not increase the level of development in the area beyond what would have occurred in the absence of the CSD (Los Angeles County Safety Element - Wildland and Urban Fire Hazards Map). Therefore, the CSD does not increase the exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving fires, because the project is located: in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (Zone 4), in a high fire hazard area with inadequate access, in an area with inadequate water and pressure to meet fire flow hazards, or in proximity to land uses that have the potential for dangerous fire hazard (such as refineries, flammables, and explosives manufacturing). Future development would still be required to comply with all applicable fire standards including access and fire flow requirements, and impacts would be less than significant.

# 10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impac
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems?				
f) Generate construction or post-construction runoff that would violate applicable stormwater NPDES permits or otherwise significantly affect surface water or groundwater quality?				
g) Conflict with the Los Angeles County Low Impact Development_Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.84 and Title 22, Ch. 22.52)?				
h) Result in point or nonpoint source pollutant discharges into State Water Resources Control Board-designated Areas of Special Biological Significance?				
i) Use septic tanks or other private sewage disposal system in areas with known septic tank limitations or			$\boxtimes$	

in close proximity to a dramage course?			
j) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			
k) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map, or within a floodway or floodplain?			
l) Place structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows, within a 100-year flood hazard area, floodway, or floodplain?			
m) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?			
n) Place structures in areas subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?		$\boxtimes$	

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce, nor will it increase the level of future development, the CSD will not have a significant negative impact on hydrology or on water quality.

As the CSD establishes new or updated development standards in the Code, there are no physical changes that would directly result from the project. However, future development subject to the CSD may occur that could drain into existing bodies of water and/or waterways. However, any future development would be subject to all existing water quality standards and waste discharge requirements, therefore the CSD would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. Because the CSD does not increase the level of development in the area beyond what would have occurred in the absence of the CSD, there would not be a substantial increase in paved or other impervious surfaces that could impact drainage, runoff and/or groundwater. As such, the CSD will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted). Because all future development will be required to comply with all applicable policies and regulations pertaining to hydrology and water quality, the CSD would also not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site.

Because any future development would have to obtain all necessary permits before initiating construction, it would not specifically allow any future development to create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems, or allow the generation of construction or post-construction runoff that would violate any applicable stormwater NPDES permits or otherwise significantly affect surface water or groundwater quality. The CSD also would not conflict with the Los Angeles County Low Impact Development Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.84 and Title 22, Ch. 22.52) because all future development would be required to comply with this ordinance. Similarly, the CSD would not allow development that would result in point or nonpoint source pollution discharges into State Water Resources Control Board-designated areas of Special Biological Significance. Moreover, all future development will be required to comply with acceptable usages of septic tanks or other private sewage disposal system in areas with known septic tank limitations or in close proximity to a drainage course, or otherwise substantially degrade water quality. Although there are 100-year flood areas located in

the community of Agua Dulce, the CSD does not propose any new development and all future development will be required to comply will all applicable flood zone restrictions (Los Angeles County Safety Element – Flood Inundation Hazards Map). As such, the CSD would have less than significant impacts concerning the location of housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map, or within a floodway or floodplain nor would it place structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows, within a 100-year flood hazard area, floodway, or floodplain. In addition, all future development will be required to comply with applicable regulations concerning proper location and structural design to withstand flooding and other water-related disasters. As such, the CSD would have a less than significant impact concerning exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. Also based on the aforementioned reasons, the CSD would have a less than significant impact in terms of the location of structures in areas subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

#### 11. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
would the project.				
a) Physically divide an established community?			$\boxtimes$	
b) Be inconsistent with the plan designations of the subject property? Applicable plans include: the County General Plan, County specific plans, County local coastal plans, County area plans, County community/neighborhood plans, or Community Standards Districts.				
c) Be inconsistent with the zoning designation of the subject property?				
d) Conflict with Hillside Management Criteria, SEA Conformance Criteria, or other applicable land use criteria?				

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce, nor will it increase the level of future development, the CSD will not have a significant negative impact on land use and/or planning.

No established community is proposed to be physically divided by the CSD. Moreover, one of the goals of the CSD is to promote dispersed, low density development in order to maintain the rural nature of the area. Furthermore, the CSD does not mandate any new development or alterations to the physical environment and all new development must comply with applicable policies and regulations concerning subdivisions. As such, the CSD will have less than significant impacts in terms of physically dividing an established community, being inconsistent with the zoning designation of the subject property, conflicting with Hillside Management Criteria, SEA Conformance Criteria, or other applicable land use criteria.

The proposed CSD will replace the existing CSD, which is consistent with all plans, policies, and regulations. Because any development pursuant to the new CSD will also be subject to all current plans, specifically the Los Angeles County General Plan, policies, and regulations, the CSD will not be inconsistent with the plan designations of the subject property. In fact, the CSD is consistent with many of the goals and policies of the Los Angeles County General Plan. For example, some of the specific needs, goals, and policies of the County General Plan with which the CSD is consistent include the following:

1. Prevent Urban Blight and Deterioration:

Urban blight, already a serious problem, will become more of a threat in the future. Older suburbs and inner cities can suffer accelerating deterioration as tract housing and related commercial centers built between 1945 and 1965 age and become obsolete. The loss of middle and upper income families to the newer suburbs, a relative decline in personal income, rising maintenance costs, and a reduction in relative market value further increase the potential for urban blight. (9) Preventing the spread of blight and restoring areas already affected cannot be accomplished unless urban sprawl is restrained and scarce investment funds are used to maintain and restore the vitality of existing urban areas.

The CSD is intended to maintain a dispersed, low density development pattern to preserve the secluded rural nature of the Agua Dulce community. As such, the CSD aligns with the need to prevent urban blight and deterioration because it discourages sprawl and promotes low density development for future projects.

### 2. Conserve Energy:

Worldwide industrialization, population growth, and policies of energy producers and consumers are placing increased demands on a finite stock of fossil fuels. Locally produced energy supplies are declining and the County, like the nation, is increasingly dependent on foreign sources. Although alternative energy resources may eventually help resolve the imbalance between supply and demand, there is an immediate need for government at all levels to take strong conservation measures.

The CSD contains provisions to limit the quantity and lumens of future street lights in the community of Agua Dulce by requiring compliance with Part 9 of Chapter 22.44 of the Code which promotes dark skies. As such, the CSD would aid in the conservation of energy.

### 3. Preserve the Natural Environment:

Los Angeles County has one of the most varied natural environments in the nation. Natural amenities were a primary factor in bringing investments and people into the region. But rapid, large scale urban development and the belief that natural resources are only useful for economic production have caused wide-spread damage to these assets. Sacrificing our remaining environmental assets in order to stimulate economic growth would be a grave mistake. Economic growth and environmental preservation are complementary, not competitive. Social and economic well-being are linked to a restored and healthy environment.

The CSD promotes low density development patterns, minimal street lighting, and minimum distances for construction near significant ridgelines and hillside areas. The larger areas between development, the preservation of natural surfaces, the restrictions placed on future artificial street lighting, and the preservation of significant ridgelines and hillside may actually aid in the preservation of wildlife corridors and nursery sites. As such, the CSD will aid in the preservation of the natural environment.

#### 4. Conserve Resources and Protect the Environment:

This goal is a recognition of man's dependence on the physical environment for his prosperity and well-being, and of his responsibility to be sensitive to the environmental consequences of his actions. The fulfillment of this goal will involve preserving the natural environment; eliminating air, noise, and water pollution to protect health and safety; avoiding or mitigating the effects of natural hazards; and, conserving all resources, including natural habitats and wildlife, for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

See number 3. Due to the aforementioned reasons, the CSD will aid in the conservation of resources and the protection of the environment.

## 5. General Policy 10:

Protect areas that have significant natural resources and scenic values, including significant ecological areas, the coastal zone, and prime agricultural lands.

See number 3. In addition, the CSD is intended to preserve the secluded, rural nature of the community.

#### 6. General Policy 12:

Conserve energy to ensure adequate supplies for future use

See number 2.

## 7. General policy 14:

Restore and protect air quality through the control of industrial and vehicular emissions, improved land use management, energy conservation and transportation planning.

See number 2. In addition, the CSD promotes equestrianism, which could be used as an alternative form of transportation, and facilitates developments that would accommodate such transport.

## 8. General Policy 23:

Ensure that development in non-urban areas is compatible with rural life styles, does not necessitate the expansion of urban service systems, and does not cause significant negative environmental impacts or subject people and property to serious hazards.

One of the stated purposes of the CSD is to maintain a dispersed, low density development pattern to preserve the secluded rural nature of the community. As such, the CSD will ensure that development in non-urban areas is compatible with rural life styles.

## 12. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impaci
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally- important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?			$\boxtimes$	

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce, nor will it increase the level of future development, the CSD will not have a significant negative impact on mineral resources.

There is a mineral resource zone located in the southwest corner of the CSD area (Mineral Resource Zones - Source: California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. Current as of 1994. Claremont-Upland Production-Consumption region updated as of 2007.). All future development will be required to comply with all applicable regulations and policies concerning mineral resources in the area. In addition, because the CSD does not propose or mandate any new physical development, it will have a less than significant impact in terms of resulting in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Moreover, based on the aforementioned reasoning, the CSD would have a less than significant impact in terms of resulting in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

### 13. NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the County noise ordinance (Los Angeles County Code, Title 12, Chapter 12.08) or the General Plan Noise Element?				
b) Exposure of sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, hospitals, senior citizen facilities) to excessive noise levels?				
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, including noise from parking areas?				
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, including noise from amplified sound systems?				
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce, nor will it significantly increase the level of future development, the CSD will not result in a significant increase in noise.

The CSD allows for an increase in the number of dogs permitted from a total of three, which is the current allowable number, to a maximum of five on a parcel of land one net acre or greater in size. It is possible that this increase could result in an increase in noise levels in Agua Dulce. However, a net increase of two dogs on parcels of such considerable size for residences, combined with existing rural noises such as livestock and agricultural machinery, and taking into consideration that all residents must comply with applicable noise regulations, any potential increase in noise levels due to the CSD would be less than significant.

The CSD also more specifically outlines provisions for home-based occupations; allowing a maximum of two equivalent persons, other than residents, to be employed or volunteer on site and permitting occupations such as

animal training and recording/motion picture/video recording. It is possible that this increase in home-based occupations could cause a corresponding increase in noise levels in residential areas. However, hours of operation are limited to 8:00 am to 6:00 pm so any increase in noise levels would be during regular business hours and thus unlikely to cause significant impact to residents. In addition, all future development would still be required to comply with the County noise ordinance and therefore, impacts would be less than significant for noise.

All construction activities associated with the implementation of the CSD would be subject to any local noise control ordinance as well as the County noise ordinance (Title 12 of the County Code). Moreover, the purpose of the CSD is to preserve the secluded rural nature of the community of Agua Dulce. As such, the CSD would a less than significant impact in terms of causing exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise in excess of standards established in the County noise ordinance (Los Angeles County Code, Title 12, Chapter 12.08) or the General Plan Noise Element. Moreover, based on the aforementioned reasoning, the CSD would have less than significant impacts in terms of causing the exposure of sensitive receptors (e.g. schools, hospitals, senior citizen facilities) to excessive noise levels nor would it cause a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above existing levels without the project, including noise from parking areas or a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, including noise from amplified sound systems. Again, based on the fact that all future development will be required to comply with all applicable regulations concerning noise, the CSD will have less than significant impacts concerning the exposure of people residing or working in a project area to excessive noise levels for projects located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Lastly, based on the aforementioned reasoning, for a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, the CSD will have a less than significant impact in terms of the exposure of people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.

#### 14. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Less Than

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				
b) Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections?				
c) Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing?				
d) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce, nor will it increase the level of future development, the CSD will not have a negative impact on population and/or housing.

The CSD does not mandate development and, more specifically, it does not propose new housing, businesses, road extensions, or other infrastructure improvements that would induce substantial population growth in the area. As such, it will not directly or indirectly induce substantial population growth in the area. The CSD is intended to maintain a dispersed, low density development pattern through various provisions such as those requiring a minimum lot size of two acres and a minimum width and depth of 165 feet. In addition, the CSD does not propose any housing directly and all future projects subject to the CSD would be required to comply with other County requirements regulating density. Furthermore, the CSD does not include any rezoning or any plan amendment that would increase density. As such, the CSD will have less than significant impacts in terms of cumulatively exceeding official regional or local population projections. Furthermore, the CSD does not propose changes in land use or mandate the removal of existing houses such that would displace existing housing, affordable or otherwise. Second units and other affordable housing projects are currently subject to regulation under the Code and the CSD does not place additional constraints or restrictions on said housing. Finally, the CSD does not propose to displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

### 15. PUBLIC SERVICES

a) Would the project create capacity or service level problems, or result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Fire protection?			$\boxtimes$	
Sheriff protection?			$\boxtimes$	
Schools?			$\boxtimes$	
Parks?			$\boxtimes$	
Libraries?			$\boxtimes$	
Other public facilities?			$\boxtimes$	

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce, nor will it increase the level of future development, the CSD will not have a significant negative impact on public services.

The CSD proposes no new development and no direct increase in public service. All future development pursuant to the CSD will be required to comply with all applicable policies and regulations pertaining to provision of public services. As such, the CSD would have less than significant impacts concerning capacity or service level problems, and concerning substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services (including fire protection, sheriff protection, schools, parks, libraries, and other public facilities).

#### 16. RECREATION

T --- Th ---

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				
c) Is the project consistent with the Department of Parks and Recreation Strategic Asset Management Plan for 2020 (SAMP) and the County General Plan standards for the provision of parkland?				
d) Would the project interfere with regional open space connectivity?				

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce, nor will it increase the level of future development, the CSD will not have a significant negative impact on recreation.

Though the CSD proposes no new development, it does require all land division projects creating more than four lots or parcels of land to contain dedicated trail easements in accordance with the adopted Trails Plan of the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. These public dedicated trail easements would be designed to connect to an existing or planned trail alignment(s) and to provide connectivity to recreational uses such as open space areas and parks. While these provisions in the CSD could increase trail access and possibly use of parks, these provisions are also required under the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan and would be enacted even in the absence of this CSD. As such, the CSD would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. Moreover, this project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. All future development pursuant to the CSD would be required to comply with all applicable policies and regulations pertaining to the natural environment and regional open space connectivity. As such, the CSD would have a less than significant impact in terms of a parkland provision interfering with regional open space connectivity.

# 17. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Less Than

Would the project	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impaci
Would the project:  a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing a measure of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation, including mass transit and non-motorized travel, and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit? Measures of performance effectiveness include those found in the most up-to-date Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Transportation Plan, County Congestion Management Plan, and County General Plan Mobility Element.				
b) Exceed the County Congestion Management Plan (CMP) Transportation Impact Analysis thresholds?				
c) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to, level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the CMP, for designated roads or highways (50 peak hour vehicles added by project traffic to a CMP highway system intersection or 150 peak hour trips added by project traffic to a mainline freeway link)?				
d) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				
e) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				
f) Result in inadequate emergency access?			$\boxtimes$	
g) Conflict with the Bikeway Plan, Pedestrian Plan, Transit Oriented District development standards in the County General Plan Mobility Element, or other adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle				

racks'	۱?

h) Decrease the performance or safety of alternative		$\boxtimes$	
transportation facilities?			

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is built in Agua Dulce, nor will it increase the level of future development, the CSD will not have a significant negative impact on transportation and/or traffic.

The CSD does not mandate or propose new development, and any future development must comply with all current policies and regulations relating to traffic and all modes of transportation. Furthermore, the CSD promotes equestrianism, which could be utilized as an alternative form of transportation, and facilitates developments, such as mandatory hitching posts at trail heads and public right of ways, that would accommodate such transport. As such, the CSD would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing a measure of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation, including mass transit and non-motorized travel, and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways, and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit. All future development pursuant to the CSD will be required to comply with the County Congestion Management Plan (CMP) and, as such, the CSD will have less than significant impacts related to exceeding the (CMP) Transportation Impact Analysis thresholds. Based on the aforementioned reasoning, and because all future development will also be subject to applicable traffic standards, the CSD will have less than significant impacts concerning any conflicts with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to, level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the CMP, for designated roads or highways (50 peak hour vehicles added by project traffic to a CMP highway system intersection or 150 peak hour trips added by project traffic to a mainline freeway link. Based on the aforementioned reasons, the CSD will have a less than significant impact in terms of an alteration in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in field traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks. All future development will still be required to comply with applicable regulations concerning safe design features and, as such, the CSD will have a less than significant impact in terms of a substantial increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment), nor will it result in inadequate emergency access. Because all new development must comply with all applicable policies and regulations contained in other transportation plans, the CSD will not conflict with the Bikeway Plan, Pedestrian Plan, Transit Oriented District development standards in the County General Plan Mobility Element, or other adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks). Lastly, because all development pursuant to the CSD must comply with all transportation safety elements, the CSD will have less than significant impacts in terms of decreasing the performance or safety of alternative transportation facilities.

## 18. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Los Angeles or Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Boards?				$\boxtimes$
b) Create water or wastewater system capacity problems, or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
c) Create drainage system capacity problems, or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
d) Have sufficient reliable water supplies available to serve the project demands from existing entitlements and resources, considering existing and projected water demands from other land uses?				
e) Conflict with the Los Angeles County Low Impact Development Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.84 and Title 22, Ch. 22.52) or Drought Tolerant Landscaping Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 21, § 21.24.430 and Title 22, Ch. 21, Part 21)?				
f) Create energy utility (electricity, natural gas, propane) system capacity problems, or result in the construction of new energy facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
g) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				
h) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning – of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. Because the CSD will neither directly nor indirectly expand what is

built in Agua Dulce, nor will it increase the level of future development, the CSD will not have a significant negative impact on utilities or service systems.

The CSD does not mandate or propose new development, and any future development must still comply with all applicable policies, standards, and regulations relating to public infrastructure and the provision of utilities and services. As such, the CSD will not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Los Angeles or Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Boards, create water or wastewater system capacity problems, or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects. Moreover, because the CSD does not propose any new development and all future development must comply with applicable regulations and policies pertaining to drainage, it will have a less than significant impact in terms of the creation of drainage system capacity problems, or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects. Moreover, all future development pursuant to the CSD must comply will applicable water availability standards and, as such, the CSD will have a less than significant impact in terms of ensuring that sufficient reliable water supplies are available to serve project demands from existing entitlements and resources, considering existing and projected water demands from other land uses will be established through future projects.

Because any future development must comply with all applicable policies and regulations, the CSD will not conflict with the Los Angeles County Low Impact Development Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.84 and Title 22, Ch. 22.52) or Drought Tolerant Landscaping Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 21, §21.24.430 and Title 22, Ch. 21, Part 21). Furthermore, because the CSD does not mandate or propose any new development and all future development would be required to meet energy capacity requirements and comply with applicable policies and regulations pertaining to all utilities and service systems, it will have less than significant impacts in terms of the creation of energy utility (electricity, natural gas, propane) system capacity problems, or result in the construction of new energy facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects, nor will it need to be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs. Finally, again because any future development must comply with all applicable policies and regulations, the CSD will comply with federal, state, and local statues and regulations related to solid waste.

### 19. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Less Than

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impaci
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				

The CSD proposes amendments to Title 22 - Planning and Zoning - of the Los Angeles County Code to update and clarify existing development standards as well as add new and more comprehensive development standards for future development in the community of Agua Dulce. As analyzed in this document, the CSD is not projected to significantly increase the level of future development and is intended to maintain a dispersed, low density development pattern in order to preserve the secluded rural nature of the community. Moreover, the CSD contains provisions to control and limit development in hillside areas and significant ridgelines, and as such, the CSD will have a less than significant impact on aesthetics in Agua Dulce. Moreover, because the CSD will not directly or indirectly expand or increase what is built in Agua Dulce or contain any provisions for rezoning, and because the County does not participate in the Williamson Act program, impacts to agricultural and forest resources would be less than significant. All new construction will be required to comply with applicable air quality standards and thus, the CSD would have a less than significant impact on air quality. While the CSD may indirectly affect biological resources through requirements in future development, all future development will be required to comply with all applicable habitat conservation plans and all applicable federal, state, and local regulations concerning habitat and biological preservation. As such, the CSD will have a less than significant impact on biological resources. The Los Angeles County General Plan, which governs development in Agua Dulce, contains policies that provide for the protection of cultural heritage resources, including historical, archaeological, paleontological and geological sites, and significant architectural structures as well as encourage public use of cultural heritage sites, promote public awareness of cultural resources, and encourage private owners to protect cultural heritage resources in Los Angeles County. Therefore, the CSD will have less than significant impacts on cultural resources in Agua Dulce. As stated in this document, all future development will be required to comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations that are designed to conserve energy, including the Los Angeles County Green Building Standards (L.A. County Code Title 22, Ch. 22.52, part 20 and Title 21, § 21.24.440) as well as the CEQA environmental review process, including the provisions for energy conservation contained in Appendix F. As such, the CSD would result in less than significant impact related to energy. In addition, as analyzed in this document, any construction of new buildings in Agua Dulce that would be required to comply with the CSD would also be required to comply with the California Building Code, all relevant engineering and seismic standards, the preparation of any necessary geotechnical reports, the procurement of any necessary permits to ensure integrity of the structures, and all applicable regulations concerning soil and erosion control and the installation of septic tanks and alternative waste water disposal systems. Therefore, the CSD would have a less than significant impact on geology and soils. Moreover, the CSD does not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases including regulations implementing AB 32 of 2006, General Plan policies and implementing actions for GhG emission reduction, and the Los Angeles Regional Climate Action Plan and all future development would be required to comply with the applicable policies contained in such plans. Therefore, the CSD will have a less than significant impact on greenhouse gas emissions. As discussed in the document, there are no hazardous materials sites located in the community of Agua Dulce and all future development in the area will be required to comply with applicable laws and regulations pertaining to the transport, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. Furthermore, all future development would be required to adhere to safety regulations when located within the vicinity of an airport or airstrip. Therefore, the CSD will have a less than significant impact on hazards and hazardous materials. As previously stated, all future development would be subject to applicable water quality and hydrology standards and waste discharge requirements, would be required to obtain all necessary permits before initiating construction, would be required to comply with acceptable usages of septic tanks or other private sewage disposal system, and must adhere to applicable regulations concerning proper location and structural design to withstand flooding and other waterrelated disasters. As such, the CSD would have a less than significant impact on hydrology and water quality. No established community is proposed to be physically divided by the CSD and all future development pursuant to the CSD must comply with applicable policies and regulations concerning subdivisions as well as all current plans, such as the Los Angeles County General Plan. Moreover, as previously stated, one of the goals of the CSD is to promote dispersed, low density development in order to maintain the rural nature of the area. Thus, the CSD will have a less than significant impact on land use and planning. There is a mineral resource zone located in the southwest corner of the CSD area (Mineral Resource Zones - Source: California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. Current as of 1994. Claremont-Upland Production-Consumption region updated as of 2007.). Because all future development will be required to comply with all applicable regulations and policies concerning mineral resources in the area and because the CSD does not propose or mandate any new physical development, it will have a less than significant impact in terms of resulting in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state and in terms of resulting in the loss of availability of a locallyimportant mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan. As analyzed in the document, all future development and activities will be required to comply with applicable noise regulations and, accordingly, the CSD will have a less than significant impact on noise in Agua Dulce. The CSD does not propose any housing directly nor does it mandate the removal of existing houses and all future projects subject to the CSD would be required to comply with other County requirements regulating density. Furthermore, the CSD does not include any rezoning, changes in land use, or any plan amendment that would increase density. As such, the CSD will have a less than significant impact on population and housing. As discussed previously, all future development pursuant to the CSD will be required to comply with all applicable policies and regulations pertaining to provision of public services and as such, the CSD would have a less than significant impact on public services. Though the CSD proposes no new development, it does require all land division projects creating more than four lots or parcels of land to contain dedicated trail easements in accordance with the adopted Trails Plan of the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. While these provisions in the CSD could increase trail access and possibly use of parks, these provisions are also required under the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan and would be enacted even in the absence of this CSD. In addition, all future development pursuant to the CSD would be required to comply with all applicable policies and regulations pertaining to the natural environment and regional open space connectivity. As such, the CSD will have a less than significant impact on recreation. As discussed, all future development must comply with all applicable policies and regulations relating to traffic and all modes of transportation including the County Congestion Management Plan (CMP) as well as safety design features. Therefore, the CSD will have a less than significant impact on transportation and traffic. As previously analyzed, the CSD does not mandate or propose new development, and any future development must comply with all applicable policies and regulations relating to public infrastructure and the provision of utilities and services, drainage, water availability requirements, energy capacity requirements, and provisions for solid waste disposal. As such, the CSD will have a less than significant impact on utilities and service systems. Also, because all CSD-related projects subject to discretionary review would be analyzed for any impacts to the surrounding environment and any appropriate mitigation measures or project changes for such CSD-related

projects will be reviewed as part of CEQA analysis for these discretionary projects, the CSD does not have environmental effect which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Lastly, based on the aforementioned reasoning, the CSD does not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.